(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, steps taken to check and identify drawbacks in tneir fuuctioniag; and

(d) the Steps proposed to be taken to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENI (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Tne wonting of the ranchayati Raj institutions in the country is reviewed from time to time in the meetinse of concerned Panchayati Raj Ministers and Secretaries heid at the national level. A National Committee of Panchayat Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Areas and Employment has been constituted for the purpoise. Several suggestions have been made to the States/UTs to streamline the functioning of Panchayati Raj system. A Southern Regional Conference of the Chairpersons of Zila Parishads at NIRD, Hyderabad was held in June, 1997, to know the working of the P.R. bodies in all the selected Southern States, More recently, the Chief Ministers' Conference was held on 2-8-1997 at. New Delhi to review the working of the Panchayati Raj Institutions; where the outstand'n"; issues like devolution of powers/functions and responsibilities upon PRIs, setting u,p of District Planning Committees and implementaticn of Reports of the Stata Finance Commissions and training to PRIs were discussed; and the Conference recommended to set up two Committees; (a) the Committee of the Paochayats and the Tribal Development Ministers of the eight States from the areas covered under Schedule V of the Constitution, under the Chairmanship of Minister (RA&]g) to resolve difficulty if any, in enacting the State legislation expeditiously before cut off date i.e. 23rd December, 1997, and; (b) the Committee of the Chief Ministers to examine the issues ragardihg devolution of powers, functions and responsibilities upon the PRIs, and to re-commend measures to streamline the Panchayati Raj system.

National Highways

*316. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLA-PPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total distance of the National Highways, State-wise; and

(b) the length of the roads which have two lanes and four lanes in order to avoid heavy traffls, State-wise? . .

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKAT-TRAMAN): (a) and (b) Total length of National Highway in the country, Statewise and details of 2-lane and 4-lane.

S.No	Name of States	Total Length (in Kms.)	4 Lane (in Kms.)	2 Lane (in Kms.)
1	2	3.	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2888	28	2500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	330		20
3.	Assam	2296		1714
4.	Bihar	2547	15	1860
5.	Chandigarh	24	8	16
6.	Delhi	72	72	
7.	Goa	229		107

1	2		3	4	5
8.	Gujarat	1631		196	1342
9.	Haryana	698		77	621
10.	Himachal Pradesh .	854			353
11.	Jammu and kashmir	648			496
12.	Karnataka	1996		30	1625
13.	Kerala	940			432
14.	Madhya Pradesh		2946		2369
15.	Maharashtra	2918		21	2578
16.	Manipur	431			122
17.	Meghalaya	472			272
18.	Mizoram	551			5
19.	Nagaland	113			113
20.	Orissa	1649		3	1244
21.	Pondicheery	23			23
22	Punjanb	892		131	745
23.	Rajasthan	2931		19	1975
24-	Sikkim	62			7
25.	Tamil Nadu	1896		34	1795
26.	Tripura	200			29
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2733		30	2598
28.	West Bengal	1638		7	1369
	TOTAL :		34608	671	26330

Appointment of compassionate grounds

*317. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAJNAXH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases for appointment on compassionate igroundis in Western Command considered in March, 19917, and if rejected, the reasons there-
Ite.:

(b) the number of cases rejected but later reconsidered and appointment given in this category and the reasons therefor;

(c) the directions issues by the Army Headquarters for appointment on compassionate grounds in regard to civilian employees; and

(d) how is the priority decided in such cases?